

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr. Chair
House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HOUSE BILL 7882 – AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RHODE ISLAND UTILITY FAIR SHARE ROADWAY REPAIR ACT

Chair Solomon and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns and our 39 member municipalities, we write to express our support for House Bill 7882, which amends Chapter 39-2.2 of the General Laws by requiring public utilities to provide notice to property owners prior to road closures.

This legislation offers several important benefits for municipalities and residents:

- **Transparency for residents and businesses:** Providing property owners with at least 48 hours' notice of road closures ensures that those impacted by construction can plan accordingly, reducing disruption and improving public satisfaction.
- **Support for municipal operations:** Advance notice allows municipal public works, traffic management, and emergency services to coordinate effectively with utilities, ensuring road closures are safely managed and any necessary detours or emergency access are planned in advance.
- **Minimal municipal burden:** The bill assigns the responsibility for notifications to the utilities, meaning cities and towns are not financially responsible for implementation. Municipalities may see a modest administrative impact in coordinating closures, but this is routine and manageable.

The League believes that House Bill 7882 is a practical, resident-focused, and municipal-friendly measure for our members, and we thank the sponsor, Chairman Casey, for its introduction.

Thank you for your attention and for your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,



Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Corporations Committee